

REMARKS

Claims 3-20 and 25-31 are allowed, as indicated in the Notice of Allowance dated February 2, 2004. Applicants propose that claims 3 and 29 be amended, and respectfully request that the proposed amendments be entered.

Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment can be entered at this stage of prosecution. Specifically, the proposed amendments are needed for the proper protection of the invention, and requires no substantial additional work on the part of the Office.

Applicants submit this proposed Amendment After Allowance to correct errors in claim 3 and in claim 29. In particular, claim 3 lacks antecedent basis for the word "plate". A casual read of the claim should readily show that the word in question should have been "body", which does possess the proper antecedent basis.


In claim 29, the verb is in the plural form, when it should be singular. Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed amendments require no further substantive search or examination on the part of the Office because the proposed amendments are simply to correct errors of a formal nature. The proposed amendments were not presented until now because applicants' representative did not discover the error in the claims until his final review of the claims following receipt of the Notice of Allowance.

In view of this proposed Amendment and the above remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in a better condition for issuance as a United States Patent. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be entered.

The Examiner's Amendment dated February 2, 2004 is acceptable to applicants.

Should the Office deem that any further action on the part of applicant would be desirable, the Office is invited to telephone applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,


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